

NRCS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contour Stripcropping Practice Incentive Payment Increased for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

St. Paul, MN- Agricultural producers wanting to solve natural resource problems on their farms should apply now for assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) administered by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Minnesota NRCS announced that a scoring period to determine priority for funding applications will occur at the end of November, 2007.

Completed applications must be received at local NRCS Field Offices throughout Minnesota by the end of November. While additional scoring periods may be held in 2008, agricultural producers are encouraged to sign-up early to improve their likelihood of receiving funding.

EQIP continues to be the heart of the NRCS's working lands conservation program. EQIP is the primary tool for landowners who want to apply soil and water conservation practices and provides both technical assistance and financial assistance for agricultural producers.

The Contour Stripcropping practice incentive payment has been increased for the FY 2008 EQIP. Producers who have been experiencing sheet and rill erosion on steep sloped working lands may find the Contour Stripcropping practice to be a solution to their environmental concern. If this practice meets the farmer's resource concerns and the contract is funded, an incentive payment of \$50/acre up to 250 acres/year for a max of 3 years would be possible.

If you have natural resource concerns on your land and are interested in making a commitment to conservation, EQIP could be the answer you have been looking for.

To find out more about EQIP in Minnesota, contact your local NRCS field office or please visit the MN NRCS website www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov

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